

### Remarks

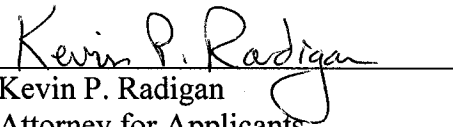
Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116(b)(1) as complying with matters of form expressly set forth in the final Office Action. Upon entrance of this amendment, claims 1-5, 7-13, 15-21, 23 & 24 will remain pending.

In the final Office Action dated June 14, 2006, claims 6, 14 & 22 were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Responsive to this indication, claims 6, 14 & 22 have been written into their respective independent claims (i.e., claims 1, 9 & 17). Thus, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

This paper is filed to ensure issuance of certain allowable subject matter, and is submitted without prejudice to the possible filing of a continuation application for any remaining subject matter of the application.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss this case with Applicants' attorney, please contact Applicants' attorney at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Kevin P. Radigan  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 31,789

Dated: June 28, 2006.

HESLIN ROTHENBERG FARLEY & MESITI P.C.  
5 Columbia Circle  
Albany, New York 12203  
Telephone: (518) 452-5600  
Facsimile: (518) 452-5579